UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/692,005	10/22/2003	Jason A. Sullivan	11072.8	8524

7590   04/12/2006

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EXAMINER
CHANG, YEAN HSI

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2835	

DATE MAILED: 04/12/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 10/03)

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	10/692,005	SULLIVAN, JASON A.
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Yean-Hsi Chang	2835	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *2/28/06*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-19* is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-19* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on <u>22 October 2003</u> is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *3/9/06*.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1.   A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set

forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this

application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set

forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action

has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 2/28/06

has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that

form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3.   Claims 1-7 and 9-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by

Harshberger et al. (US 5,311,397).

Harshberger teaches a robust customizable computing system comprising: a

processing control unit (fig. 1) having a non-peripheral based encasement (20) and an

electrical printed circuit board configuration (shown in figs. 5 and 9) that comprises

multiple interconnected boards (for example, 80, 132 and 164), wherein one (80) of said

interconnected boards is directly and transversely coupled to another (132) of said

interconnected boards (see figs. 5 and 8, also col. 4, lines 48-61), an external object

(24), and means (for example, 166) for operably connecting said processing control unit

to said external object, said processing control unit introducing intelligence into said

external object and causing said external object to perform smart functions (claims 1, 3

and 15); the non-peripheral based encasement module (20) comprising: a main support

chassis (20) having a plurality of wall supports (for example, 32-34) and a plurality of

junction centers (for example, at locations of 50 and 52) containing means (50 and 52)

for supporting a computer component (22) therein, a dynamic back plane (36) that

provides support for connecting peripheral and other computing components (see fig. 5,

and col. 3, line 62 through col. 4, line 4) directly to a system bus (76) without requiring

an interface, means for enclosing said main support chassis (fig. 1) and providing

access (40) to an interior portion of said non-peripheral based encasement, one or more

computer processing components disposed within said junction centers of said non-

peripheral based encasement (see fig. 9), and means (46 and 48) for cooling said

interior portion of said non-peripheral based encasement (claim 2); at least one other

processing control unit (shown in fig. 15) operably connected to said external object

(claim 4); wherein said processing control unit comprises a load bearing structure

(shown in figs. 1 and 2) (claim 5); wherein said means for operably connecting

comprises a direct connection via a universal port (166) formed in a dynamic back plane

(118) on said processing control unit (claim 6); wherein said means for operably

connecting comprises a wired connection (fig. 10) that connects to a port (166) of said

processing control unit (claim 7); wherein said means for operably connecting

comprises means (218) for engaging the external object (claim 9); wherein said means

for engaging an external object comprises a slide receiver (54) formed on said

processing control unit that functions to receive a matching insert (219) located on the

external object (claim 10); wherein said external object is selected from the group

consisting of any object, system, device, apparatus, component, structure, component

of a structure, item of manufacture, and inanimate object (see fig. 1) (claim 11); wherein

said external object comprises a workstation computer having snap-on peripheral

devices that operably connect to said processing control unit (referring fig. 15, consider

POS #1 as the processing control unit, and 24 of a workstation computer at file server

as the external object having a snap-on peripheral 26) (claim 12); wherein said external

object comprises circuitry (214), such that said processing control unit operably

connects to said circuitry (see fig. 13) (claim 13); wherein said electrical printed circuit

board configuration of said processing control unit is a tri-board (80, 132 and 164)

(claim 14); and a method for introducing intelligence into the external object being

disclosed in the specification (claims 16-19).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set
> forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and
> the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the
> invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.
> Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

5.   Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Harshberger et al. in view of Dickie (US 2004/0268005 A1).

Dickie teaches a processing control unit (102), an external object (104), and

means (420) for operably connecting said processing control unit to said external object

comprising a wireless connection (the connection may be wireless as stated in [0005]).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made to adapt a wireless connection as taught by Dickie for the device of

Harshberger, since hardwired and wireless connections being considered equivalent in

the related art as admitted in the specification of the current application.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 2/28/06 have been fully considered but they are not

persuasive. Applicant argues, 'Harshberger does not explicitly nor impliedly teach "an

electrical printed circuit board configuration that comprises multiple interconnected

boards, wherein one of said interconnected boards is directly and transversely coupled

to another of said interconnected boards" as claimed in independent claim 1'. Referring

figs. 5, 9 and 10, and col. 4, lines 48-61 of Harshberger, circuit board 132 is directly

connected to circuit board 80 via connector 136 which is connected to connector 82 of

circuit board 80, and circuit board 80 is positioned transversely with respect to plane 38

which parallel to plane 118 and circuit board 132, therefore circuit board 80 is

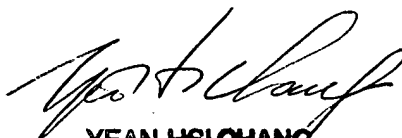transverse to circuit board 132 as claimed.

Correspondence

6.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Yean-Hsi Chang whose telephone number is (571) 272-

2038. The examiner can normally be reached on 07:30 - 16:00, Monday through

Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Art Unit

phone number is (571) 272-2800, ext. 35. The fax phone number for the organization

where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Information regarding

the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information

Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained

from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications

is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system,

see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private

PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or

proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-

8558.

Yean-Hsi Chang
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 2835
April 2, 2006

**YEAN-HSI CHANG
PRIMARY EXAMINER**